

# Councilman Paul Cunningham's Ward 2 Newsletter

AUGUST 16, 2013

## UPCOMING DATES:

- August 20: Happy Birthday Tucson!
- August 27: Primary Election day
- September 2: Labor Day
- September 16: Mexican Independence Day
- November 5: General Election day

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## PAUL'S NOTE

I was saddened to hear of the death of Dave Sitton last week.

Initially, I knew Sitton though our shared passion for sports, U of A athletics especially. I think a lot of us knew Sitton through his broadcasting career, but he was a great rugby player. He was a lifetime booster of the sport and a nationally known commentator on it.

I worked with him when we got the College All-Star Football game to Tucson. Yes, it was a sports event, but Sitton understood what it meant for the community. What we got out of that game was essentially a three-hour nationally broadcast commercial for Tucson, a town that he loved. He understood how to make the games we watch into a little bit more.

He also was active with the Tucson Pops Orchestra and the Catholic Diocese of Tucson. Still, he excelled at what we all want to do: he was a decent guy who cared about the folks and the community around him. Thank you for everything, Dave.

Across the country, the Veterans Administration held mental health care summits this week. Our own Southern Arizona VA Health Care Center hosted one on Wednesday, and it featured discussions not only on mental health care, but on housing and legal issues that are unique to vets.

We in Tucson are lucky to have one of the finest VA health centers in the country.

SAVAHCS's excellence earned them a Robert Carey trophy earlier this year. My service never took me into combat, so I suffered neither the physical or mental scars that can come from duty to our nation. However, I'm proud that so many of my brother and sister soldiers get some of the finest care in the country here in Tucson.

The commitment we've made to our vets is quite broad. President Obama and Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric Shinseki pledged to end homelessness among veterans. Part of that is helping with mental health, but it also involves finding them housing. Here in Southern Arizona, the Veterans Administration is in charge of 555 HUD housing vouchers that are specifically targeted at veterans.

Still, our vets can't get the help if they don't know where to find it. That's why the summit took place yesterday, to connect the community with the VA. Sometimes it can be difficult to deal with a bureaucracy full of strangers, and sometimes there might even be a stigma attached to getting help.



## PAUL'S NOTE CONTINUED

Two of the organizations that attended yesterday were the Tucson Vets Center and Rally Point. They know the ins and outs of the bureaucracy and community organizations, but most importantly, they are both staffed with vets that want to lend an ear and a helping hand:

Tucson Vets Center  
3055 N. First Avenue  
882-0333 or 877-927-8387

Rally Point  
1101 E Broadway  
488-0489

My staff had a chance to make contact with both of these fine organizations and I hope to publicize their programs and events in future newsletters.

Something to keep in mind while you listen to budget discussions in congress:

the VA and its programs have been shielded from the sequester so far, however, both SAVAHCS Director Jonathan Gardner and Congressman Ron Barber noted at the summit that we can't be sure it will stay that way. It's something we should ask all of our congressional delegation about.

I'd like to close with two items from the world of Tucson youth sports.

Some of you may have read about some disagreements that might have shut down the season for our youth ice hockey players. We managed to get everyone talking, and youth hockey will be able to finish their season. I'd like to thank Marty Carey of the TCC, Kelly Gotschalk from the city manager's office, Patty Moreno of Wildcat Youth Hockey and coach Sean Rhodes of Arizona Hockey for working together to do something good for our young athletes.

Also, I can't go without congratulating Sunnyside Little League for winning the Little League Softball World Series. I'm not only proud as a Tucsonan, they are the first team from our area to win, but I'm proud as a teacher. I taught many of these girls at Sierra Middle School.

To my former students: thank you for representing our community well and congratulations to all of you.

As always, have a great weekend. Summer will be over soon and we can get back to a cool 85 degrees.

## HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE

Starting in July, the Tucson/Pima County Household Hazardous Waste Program is changing the 2nd Saturday Outreach Collection to a "mobile" event. Every month, the collection event will be in a different neighborhood so that more Tucsonans will have easy access to the program. The 1st Saturday collection at the Eastside Service Center, 7575 E Speedway, will still continue. The collections run from 8 am to noon. For more information, visit [www.tucsonaz.gov/hhw](http://www.tucsonaz.gov/hhw) or call 888-6947

**IMPORTANT:** Do not drop off household hazardous waste at the Ward 2 council office. We have no way of storing it. Please wait until a scheduled monthly drop off.

*1st Saturday:* Eastside Service Center, 7575 E Speedway. Enter site by

turning north on Prudence.

*2nd Saturday:*

August: El Rio Neighborhood Center, 1390 W Speedway Blvd

September: Himmel Park, 1000 N Tucson Blvd

October: TOPSC Lower Lot, 4004 S Park Ave

November: Mansfield Park, 2000 N 4th Ave

December: Purple Heart Park, 100050 E Rita Ranch Rd

## HOME WATER AUDIT

Whether temps soar to 106° or plunge to 23°, being water efficient is important every day of the year. Tucson Water offers free expert advice to help you conserve water, stop leaks and reduce utility bills.

A water efficiency expert from the Tucson Water Zanjero Program will visit your home, review water-use habits, check water fixtures and irrigation systems and install free faucet aerators and showerheads, if needed. Customers also receive a survey of their water use. You must be at home during the two hour Zanjero visit.

For nearly 17 years, Zanjeros have helped Tucson Water customers use water more efficiently inside and outside the home. Schedule your free Zanjero visit today via e-mail [TW\\_web@tucsonaz.gov](mailto:TW_web@tucsonaz.gov) or phone 520 791-3242

## PARKS UP- DATES

The maintenance project at the Udall Park soccer fields has been completed and the fields are now open for reservations. We thank the public for their patience while the fields were closed.

All Tucson Parks and Recreation facilities will be closed on Monday, September 2, 2013 for Labor Day.

The Tucson Parks and Recreation Summer 2013 Program Guide and Class Catalog has been published and is available for pick-up at all Parks and Recreation facilities. The summer issue can also be viewed on-line at [www.tucsonaz.gov/parksandrec](http://www.tucsonaz.gov/parksandrec).

The Program Guide contains complete information on leisure classes, swim lessons, summer KIDCO, aquatics, sports program, sports camps, registration, the Discount Program, and much more.

## SOFTBALL

The Fall 2013 Softball season begins the week of September 3, 2013. Registration is currently taking place through August 21st.

Walk-in registration takes place at the Sports Unit in Freedom Center (5000 E. 29th on Monday through Friday from 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Contact the Sports Unit at 791-4870 for more information.

## SENIOR PROGRAM

The Carol West Senior Addition will host a movie matinee on Thursday, August 29 with the viewing of *Oz The Great and Powerful*. Showtime is at 1:30 p.m. and the cost is \$1.00 per person. Snacks will be provided by CareMore. Sign up at the front desk, 791-4121.



*Congratulations to Sunnyside Girls Softball—Softball Little League World Series Champions!*

## S H R E D - A - T H O N

2013 will mark the 6th year the Pima County Sheriff's Department has provided this valuable service free-of-charge to the community. All confirmed event dates are on Saturdays, and all shredding events will run from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

- September 14 at Kino Sports Complex- 2500 E. Ajo Way
- November 16 at Empire High School- 10701 E. Maryann Cleveland Way



## T . E . P . P A R T N E R S

Lower your electricity bill by tracking your power use! TEP is enrolling participants on a first come first serve basis to join an energy monitoring project to help you save on your electricity bill.

Enroll now by visiting [enroll.teppowerpartners.com](http://enroll.teppowerpartners.com) and sign up while spaces last. You will be contacted by a representative to schedule your installation. A technician will set up and install equipment at your home and show you how to track your use and see your energy savings online.

This program is a free-of-cost pilot program to help TEP customers save electricity and money, so sign up while there's still time! Learn more and sign up by visiting [enroll.teppowerpartners.com](http://enroll.teppowerpartners.com).

## M A Y O R   A N D C O U N C I L



Mayor and Council meetings are still on their summer schedule, so the next meeting will be on September 10. Regular Session starts at 5:30 pm following an afternoon study session. There is always a short call to the audience before the business portion of the meeting. Council chambers are located downtown at 255 W Alameda.

The agendas for the meetings are posted online at <http://cms3.tucsonaz.gov/clerk/mcdocs>.

We're on the web!  
[Cms3.tucsonaz.gov/ward2](http://Cms3.tucsonaz.gov/ward2)

**A U G U S T 1 6 , 2 0 1 3**

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**Councilman Paul Cunningham's Ward 2  
Newsletter**

Please bring these items to the Ward  
2 Office for the following charities:  
THE COMMUNITY FOOD BANK—Non Perishable Items  
DIAPER BANK OF SOUTHERN ARIZONA—  
Infant/Child/Adult Diapers  
TIHAN - Personal Care Items for Individuals  
and Families in Need  
LIONS CLUB—Eye Glasses  
DANCING IN THE STREETS ARIZONA—  
Ballet/Dance Equipment  
CASA MARIA—Plastic bags